



TENNESSEE SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK FEBRUARY 17-22, 2013

Prepare - Warn - Respond



*Serving Tennesseans With Our
Very Best!*



Tennessee Severe Weather Awareness Week Events February 17 - 22, 2013

Throughout the week, the National Weather Service, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and other supporting groups will conduct educational activities and drills to help people prevent injuries and deaths from tornadoes, damaging winds, flash floods, lightning, and hail. Each day of the week focuses on a specific type of severe weather or on the warning and drill system.

Sunday, February 17, we'll begin the week by highlighting the important role of SKYWARN spotters.

Monday, February 18, draws attention to hazards of Flooding and Flash Floods. Flooding is the #1 cause of weather-related fatalities. Remember...Turn Around Don't Drown!

Tuesday, February 19, will focus on lightning, often called the underrated killer. All thunderstorms have lightning and this hazard can be deceptively deadly.

Wednesday, February 20, Tornado Safety and Preparedness Day. A state-wide tornado drill will be conducted on this day around 930 am. Schools and state, county, and other interested agencies are encouraged to participate and help everyone learn life saving rules. Thursday will be the alternate drill day if adverse weather is expected on Wednesday.

Thursday, February 21, we'll discuss Severe Thunderstorms. Damaging winds from severe thunderstorms are much more frequent than tornadoes in the Mid-South. These straight line winds can reach well over 100 miles an hour and can be devastating.

Friday, February 22, will be the NOAA Weather Radio and Emergency Alert System Day.

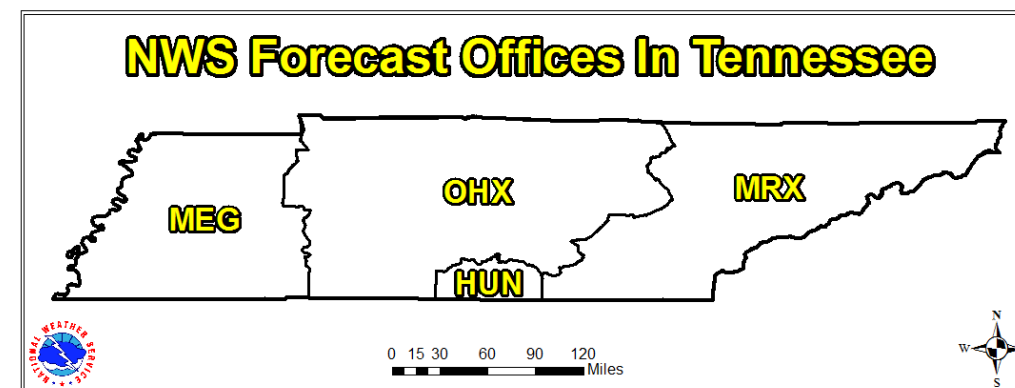
About The Cover Page

A woman and 8 kids took shelter in the kitchen closet of her Murfreesboro home during the April 10th, 2010 tornado. The closet was the only part of the house left standing after the tornado. The group had to break out the drywall to escape, but none were harmed. The other two photos were of homes damaged by the Feb. 29th tornado in the Rinnie Community of Cumberland County.

For Your Information

This booklet contains materials useful during the Severe Weather Awareness Week campaign and at other times, too. You are invited to contact the National Weather Service, state and county emergency management agencies for interviews and for answers to your questions. National Weather Service personnel and local emergency management are available for weather awareness programs to civic and industrial organizations, schools, hospitals, and others interested in weather safety.

Each county in Tennessee is served by a designated National Weather Service Office as identified here:



Legend: MEG - Memphis | OHX - Nashville | MRX - Morristown | HUN - Huntsville, AL

Please contact one of the National Weather Service Offices listed below if you need more information.

Morristown.....	George Matthews.....	(423) 586-6429
Morristown.....	Anthony Cavallucci.....	(423) 586-6429
Nashville.....	Larry Vannozi.....	(615) 754-4634
Nashville.....	Tom Johnstone.....	(615) 754-4634
Memphis.....	Jim Belles.....	(901) 544-0411
Memphis.....	Ben Schott.....	(901) 544-0411
Huntsville, AL.....	Chris Darden.....	(256) 890-8503
Huntsville, AL.....	David Nadler.....	(256) 890-8503

Information Resources on the World Wide Web

For additional resources, the following web sites are available:

NWS Nashville: www.srh.noaa.gov/ohx
NWS Memphis: www.srh.noaa.gov/meg
NWS Morristown: www.srh.noaa.gov/mrx
NWS Huntsville: www.srh.noaa.gov/hun

All NWS Offices:
<http://weather.gov>

NWS StormReady Program of Tennessee



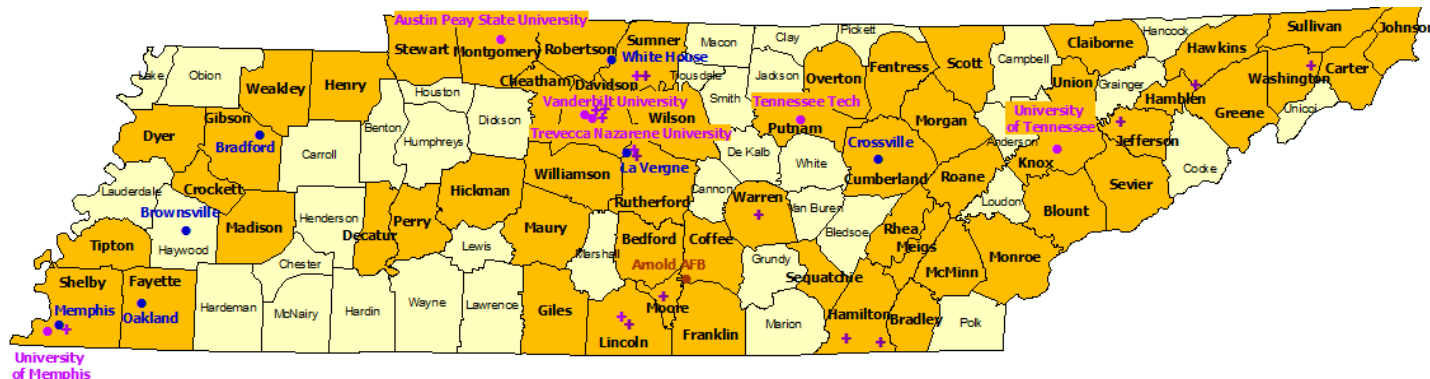
The National Weather Service (NWS), in partnership with local emergency management, law enforcement, and local government agencies, works to protect the public they serve from the hazards of severe weather through the StormReady program. The StormReady program serves to protect the public through advanced severe weather planning, public education, and awareness. When the public is better informed of the threats from severe weather – lives are saved. It is the goal of all StormReady participants to maximize the protection of life and property by ensuring that the local public is properly prepared and promptly warned when severe weather is expected or occurring.

The StormReady program has established requirements that participating agencies must perform that help mitigate threats from hazardous weather. These tasks include: (1) establishing a 24 hour Warning Point and Emergency Operations Center; (2) having multiple ways of receiving severe weather warnings and forecasts to alert the public; (3) creating a system that monitors weather conditions locally; (4) promoting public readiness through community seminars; and (5) developing a normal hazardous weather plan, including severe weather spotter training and emergency training exercises. These StormReady recommendations were found to increase severe weather awareness and preparedness across areas where they have been implemented. Considering that greater than 90% of declared disasters are weather related, it remains imperative that severe weather education in local communities remain a top priority. This will ensure that the public is prepared to protect themselves from the dangers of severe weather. The StormReady program serves as an avenue to accomplish this mission.

Several counties, local communities, and major businesses across Tennessee have become StormReady or StormReady Supporters since the program's implementation. In all – thirty nine counties across the state of Tennessee are StormReady, including the four most populous counties of Shelby, Davidson, Knox, and Hamilton. This includes the major state metropolitan areas of Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, and Chattanooga. In addition to the county and city level support of StormReady; several large private vendors/universities including the FedEx Forum in Memphis, Fayetteville Public Utilities, and Vanderbilt University support severe weather education as well as public safety and awareness through the StormReady Supporter program. The collective actions of these public and private entities through the StormReady and StormReady Supporters program accomplish the number one goal of saving lives.

The National Weather Service tirelessly promotes this worthwhile program and recruits new participants through its local warning coordination/outreach program. The NWS encourages any agency interested in becoming a new StormReady participant to contact their local NWS office. For additional information, detailed requirements, and program benefits, please visit: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/supporter.htm>. Working together, we all can do our part to protect the citizens of Tennessee from the dangers of hazardous weather.

Tennessee
69 StormReady Designations:
56 Counties, 6 Communities, 6 Universities, 1 Military Base
15 Supporters



Tennessee SKYWARN®

Sunday, February 17 , 2013



SKYWARN® is the program developed by the National Weather Service to recruit and train storm spotters. SKYWARN® spotters enhance the National Weather Service's storm detection capabilities by identifying and reporting potentially dangerous weather conditions. The SKYWARN® program has become an invaluable link in the NWS warning process.

Despite all of the sophisticated technology used in a modern NWS office, forecasters still rely on storm spotters. Doppler radar may indicate that a storm may be producing large hail, damaging winds or even a tornado, but it cannot tell exactly what's happening on the ground underneath the storm. Storm spotters, trained by NWS meteorologists, act as the eyes and ears of the NWS. Their reports, radar data and other information result in the most timely and accurate warnings possible.

SKYWARN® spotters in Tennessee come from all walks of life – law enforcement, fire or emergency management agencies and citizens interested in helping their communities. A large number of storm spotters are amateur radio operators, who volunteer their time and equipment to help the NWS detect and track severe storms.

Amateur radio operators, or "hams", will frequently operate radio equipment at the local NWS office, gathering reports from spotters in the field and relaying the data directly to NWS forecasters. SKYWARN® spotters are volunteers – they receive no compensation for their hard work. They do, however, have the satisfaction of knowing that their reports result in better warnings which save lives. If you are not an amateur radio operator and still want to report information directly to the NWS, you can participate in the e-spotter program. The e-spotter program is a web based program that will allow a spotter the ability to transmit a storm spotter report via the web directly to a local NWS office in real time. The link to the e-spotter program is at: <http://espotter.weather.gov/>

Who is Eligible?

The NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication, such HAM radio, to join the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches, nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become a spotter.

How Can I Get Involved?

You can participate in the SKYWARN® program in your area by attending a storm spotter training class to become a trained spotter. Each of the training sessions is free, lasts around two hours and covers the following concepts:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

Please contact one of the National Weather Service Offices listed below if you need more information about an upcoming SKYWARN® class.

Memphis.....	Ben Schott.....	(901) 544-0411
Nashville.....	Tom Johnstone.....	(615) 754-4634
Huntsville, AL.....	David Nadler.....	(256) 890-8503
Morristown.....	Anthony Cavallucci.....	(423) 586-8706

Here are links to each Tennessee National Weather Service office storm spotter training pages. They are:

WFO Memphis: http://www.srh.noaa.gov/meg/?n=skywarn_meetings

WFO Nashville: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ohx/?n=ohxspotterclasses>

WFO Huntsville: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hun/?n=skywarn>

WFO Morristown: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mrx/?n=spotterclasses>

Weather Spotting 2.0 – Social Media Changes the Game



Traditionally National Weather Service (NWS) Skywarn storm spotters relied on amateur radio and telephone to make their reports. Spotters are given reporting criteria and trained to verbally report what they observe. Countless lives have been saved by the real time storm information provided by Skywarn spotters.

With the continued growth of Social Media, the ways storm spotters can report are evolving. A verbal report of a wall cloud or flash flood will always be good, but a picture of the same phenomenon is priceless. Skywarn spotters can now post a storm picture or video to their local NWS office Facebook page or Twitter feed.. Not only will NWS Meteorologists see what the spotter is seeing, but local media, other spotters and the general public will as well.



<http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Memphis.gov>
<http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Nashville.gov>
<http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Huntsville.gov>
<http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Morristown.gov>



Skwarn spotters and others can also make weather reports via Twitter. The key to reporting via Twitter is to use the right hashtag. The hashtag symbol is the pound, or “#” sign. Hashtags are added to Twitter posts (Tweets) to categorize the information the post contains. NWS meteorologists routinely peruse Twitter looking for weather information and photos. If you want us to see your report or photo, please use hashtag #tnwx or #wxreport in your tweet. Additionally, residents of Middle Tennessee can use the hashtag #tSpotter, while West Tennesseans can use #mSpotter. If you are on Twitter, please follow your local NWS office at:

@NWSMemphis | @NWSNashville | @NWSMorristown | @NWSHuntsville

Wireless Emergency Alerts are Here!



Before the recent snow, ice or severe weather you may have noticed a new type of alert message on your mobile device. These messages, called Wireless Emergency Alerts, or WEAs for short, began being transmitted by most cell phone providers in the summer of 2012. WEAs cause select NWS warning messages to trigger a distinct vibration and alert tone on many mobile devices. A 90 characters or less warning message will then display detailing the threat and advising the user to take shelter and check local media or other sources for more information on the threat.

A great feature of WEA is that alerts are geo-targeted. If a warning is issued, and the cell tower providing your service is in a county affected by certain NWS warnings, you will get an alert on your WEA capable device. Most providers will re-broadcast the alert every 5 minutes so if you are driving and enter an existing NWS warning you will still get alerted. Since WEA alerts will be based on the location of the cell tower providing your service, no information about your phone or your location is broadcast. Cell phone users will also have the option to opt out of the WEA service.

Please contact your phone provider for more information concerning availability of WEA capable devices. For more information on the United States’ Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) check out:
<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/index.shtm>

WEA Messages Originated by NWS

When new alert or correction issued or time/area extended

Warning Type	WEA Message
Tsunami Warning	Tsunami danger on the coast. Go to high ground or move inland. Check local media. -NWS
Tornado Warning	Tornado Warning in this area til hh:mm tzT. Take shelter now. - NWS
Extreme Wind Warning	Extreme Wind Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Take shelter. - NWS
Flash Flood Warning	Flash Flood Warning this area til hh:mm tzT. Avoid flooded areas. Check local media. -NWS
Hurricane Warning	Hurricane Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Check local media and authorities. -NWS
Typhoon Warning	Typhoon Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Check local media and authorities. -NWS
Blizzard Warning	Blizzard Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Prepare. Avoid Travel. Check media. -NWS
Ice Storm Warning	Ice Storm Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Prepare. Avoid Travel. Check media. -NWS
Dust Storm Warning	Dust Storm Warning in this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Avoid travel. Check local media. -NWS

Legend
tzT = timezone
ddd= three letter abbreviation for day of the week

NOAA Weather Radio—Your Personal Tornado Siren
Friday, February 22, 2013

The National Weather Service (NWS) utilizes NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards to broadcast continuous weather information 24 hours a day, every day of the year. To receive the broadcasts originating from the NWS, you need a special radio capable of receiving signals in the Very High Frequency (VHF) public service band. The state of Tennessee is served by 21 NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) transmitters with several surrounding transmitters outside the state covering Tennessee counties. Approximately 95 percent of the people in Tennessee are within range of a NWR transmitter (see list of NWR transmitter locations and frequencies in table below).

While routine programming offers the latest forecasts, hazardous weather outlooks, current weather conditions, and official climate data, the broadcast cycle is automatically updated and at times interrupted whenever a specific weather watch, warning, or advisory is issued by an NWS Forecast Office. Watches, warnings, advisories and special weather statements are given the highest priority on NWR and are frequently updated with critical weather information.

In an emergency, each station will transmit a warning alarm tone in addition to the SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) tone. Information on the emergency situation then follows. These alert tones, especially the SAME, are capable of activating specially-designed receivers by producing a visual and/or audible alarm. Not all weather band receivers have this capability but all radios that receive the NWR transmission can receive the emergency broadcasts. The warning alarms and SAME tones are tested each Wednesday, typically between 11AM and Noon, weather permitting.

Commercial radio and television stations as well as cable television companies are encouraged to use NOAA Weather Radio in order to rebroadcast pertinent weather information to the general public. NWR is also a major part of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), hence the “All-Hazards” tag, with improved technology to more efficiently process critical weather warning information through commercial broadcast outlets.

Location	Frequency
Memphis	162.475
Dyersburg	162.500
Jackson	162.550
Vale	162.450
Lobelville	162.400
Clifton	162.500
Lawrenceburg	162.425
Waverly	162.400
Clarksville	162.500
Centerville	162.525
Nashville	162.550
Beechgrove	162.475
LaFayette	162.525
Hickman	162.500
Cookeville	162.400
Winchester	162.525
Spencer	162.500
Chattanooga	162.550
Knoxville	162.475
Tri-Cities	162.550
LaFollette	162.450



Turn Around Don't Drown
Monday, February 18, 2013



On average each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other severe weather related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water.

The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into flood waters. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water.

Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive into flooded roadways, often around barricades.

In many states including Tennessee, it is against the law and considered reckless driving to knowingly drive around a barricade or flood warning sign.

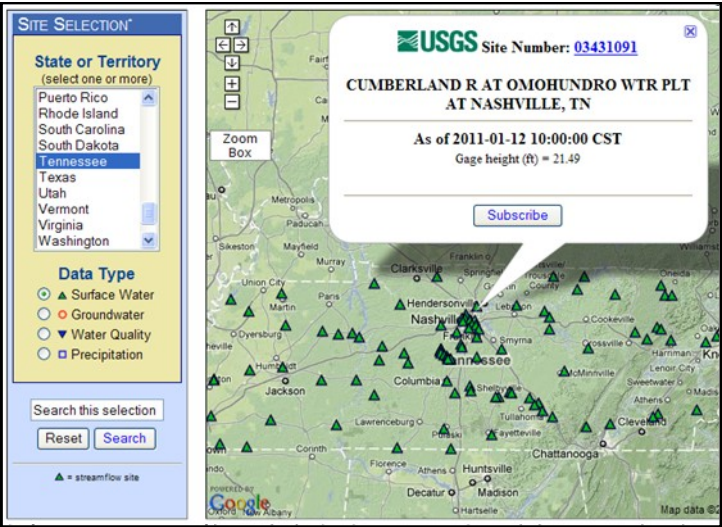
Most flood-related deaths could be avoided if people who come upon areas covered with water followed this simple advice: Turn Around, Don't Drown™.

For more information on the National Weather Service Turn Around Don't Drown campaign check out <http://www.tadd.weather.gov>

When a FLOOD WARNING is issued for your area, act quickly to save yourself. You may only have seconds!

USGS service will alert you via email or text message when rainfall amounts or river level changes meet your pre-determined criteria.

USGS WaterAlert (<http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert>) is a service that sends e-mail or text messages when certain parameters (including gage height, discharge, precipitation, and water quality) measured by a USGS data-collection station exceed user-definable thresholds. The development and maintenance of the WaterAlert system is supported by USGS and its data-collection partners, including numerous federal, state, and local agencies. Real-time data from USGS gages are transmitted via satellite or other telemetry to USGS offices at various intervals; in most cases, once every 1 or 4 hours. Emergency transmissions, such as during floods, may be more frequent.



For more information on flooding in Tennessee visit <http://tn.water.usgs.gov/flood/> or contact Shannon Williams, Assistant Director, USGS Tennessee Water Science Center, (615) 837-4755 or swilliam@usgs.gov.

EVERY THUNDERSTORM CONTAINS LIGHTNING.

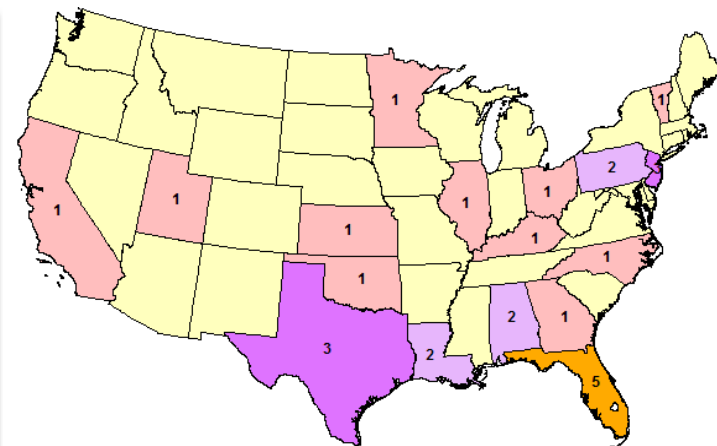
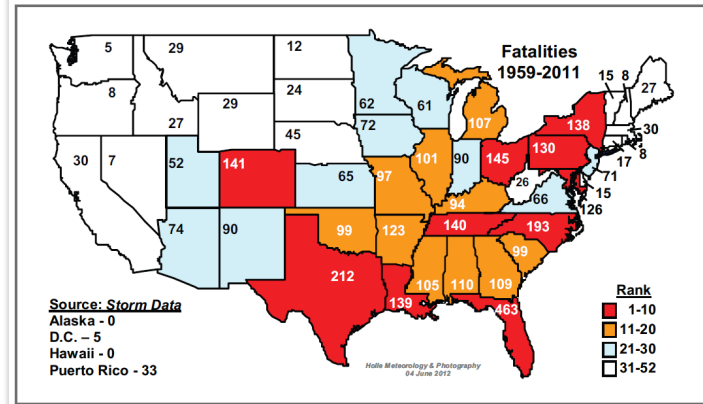
Tuesday, February 19, 2013

Across the United States 28 people were killed and hundreds more permanently injured in 2012 by lightning. Fortunately none of those killed were in the Volunteer State. In fact no Tennesseans have been killed by lightning in the last five years. Since 1959 however, 140 people have died in Tennessee due to lightning. This places Tennessee in the top 6 of states in terms of lightning fatalities.

In an average year around 25 million lightning strikes are recorded across the United State alone. Worldwide there are around 1800 thunderstorms ongoing at any given time. Lightning is an incredibly powerful electrical discharge, containing up to 100 million volts of electrical charge and capable of reaching 50000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Staying safe from lightning is simple...When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors! If you can see lightning and hear thunder you are close enough to a thunderstorm to be struck. Run to a safe building or vehicle when you first hear thunder, see lightning or observe dark threatening clouds developing overhead. Stay inside until 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder. Do **not take** shelter under trees.

Lightning Fatalities by State, 1959-2011



Number of deaths per state in 2012 from lightning



Hail

How Is Hail Formed?

Hail is formed when water droplets are drawn into an area of strong upward moving air, known as an updraft, of a storm. Once the water droplets are transported above the freezing level, they combine with tiny airborne particles, such as dirt, volcanic ash, etc., and freeze on contact, forming tiny ice particles. These ice particles are light enough that they remain suspended in the cloud, where they undergo processes that allow them to combine with other super cooled water droplets and grow into hail stones. Once the hail stones are heavy enough to overcome the upward force of the updraft, they fall out of the cloud. By definition, a severe thunderstorm contains hail stones that are 1 inch in diameter (the size of a quarter) or larger.



Macon County - April 2006 Photo By WSMV

Derecho

What is a derecho?

A derecho is a large, long lived and very damaging wind storm associated with a line of thunderstorms. In order to be considered a derecho a wind event must extend at least 240 miles and include damaging wind gusts along it's entire path. On June 29th a devastating derecho raced from northern Indiana to Washington D.C. Strong winds resulted in 22 deaths and millions of power outages across the region.

Around a week later on July 5th an intense windstorm struck areas from southwest Virginia, across much of eastern Tennessee, into north Georgia. While not technically large enough to be considered a derecho, this intense long lived wind storm damaged buildings toppled thousands of trees, and resulted in four fatalities across Tennessee. This event was a tragic reminder that a thunderstorm does not need to produce a tornado to be deadly.



Smoky Mountains. Photo Credit Knoxville News Sentinel

Hail Size Estimates

Pea.....	1/4 inch
Penny.....	3/4 inch
Quarter.....	1 inch
Half Dollar.....	1 1/4 inches
Golf Ball.....	1 3/4 inches
Tennis Ball.....	2 1/2 inches
Baseball.....	2 3/4 inches
Grapefruit.....	4 inches

Severe Thunderstorms

Thursday, February 21, 2013



What is a Severe Thunderstorm?

A severe thunderstorm is a thunderstorm that produces one or more of the following: hail that has a diameter of one inch or larger, winds greater than or equal to 58 mph, and tornadoes. About 10% of all thunderstorms in the U.S. meet severe criteria.

Severe thunderstorms can occur at any time of year, although the most common time of occurrence is during the spring months of March, April, and May.

There is also a lesser known secondary season during the fall, in November and early December.

What is the Difference between a Watch and a Warning?

A severe thunderstorm or tornado watch means that conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms or tornadoes to develop. These are issued by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK, typically a few hours before severe weather develops.

A severe thunderstorm or tornado warning means that a severe thunderstorm or tornado has either been detected on radar or witnessed by storm spotters firsthand. Your local NWS Forecast Office issues these when severe weather is developing or occurring.



Fentress County - February 12, 2009
Photo By Jeff Galloway

Safety Tips

- **Have a plan.** Prepare ahead of time so you and your family know what actions to take when severe weather occurs.
- **Get indoors!** There is no safe place outdoors during a thunderstorm.
- **Stay informed!** When severe weather threatens, stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, local television and radio stations, or the National Weather Service webpage at www.weather.gov for up to date information on the weather situation.
- **Know what county you are in.** When a warning is issued, the threatened area will be identified by the counties that contain it.
- **Have a NOAA Weather Radio.** This is the best way to receive the latest and most up to date weather information from the National Weather Service.

Tornadoes

Wednesday, February 20, 2013



Tornado - Robertson Co. - January 2010

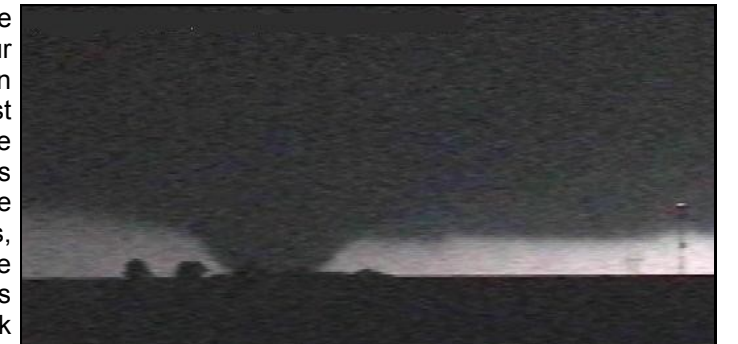
What is a Tornado?

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that extends from the base of a storm cloud to the ground. Some conditions that are conducive for tornado formation include warm, moist, unstable air, strong atmospheric winds that increase in speed and change direction with height, and a forcing mechanism to lift the air. When a combination of these factors comes together just right, tornadoes form. The most common time of year for tornado formation in Tennessee is during the spring months of March, April, and May, with a secondary tornado season in November and December. Additionally, the afternoon and

evening hours are the times of day at which most tornadoes occur, as they are the times at which the maximum heating takes place. However, tornadoes can occur at any time of day, and at any point during the year, given the right environment.

Nighttime Tornadoes Pose Greatest Danger

Tennessee receives a larger percentage of nighttime tornadoes than any other state. Tornadoes that occur during the overnight hours pose a greater danger than those that occur during the daylight because once most people go to bed, they are no longer connected to the watches or warnings issued by the NWS. This is elevated during the winter months because it is not the traditional tornado season. Because of these problems, SPC has created a way by which the public can be notified of the possibility of strong to violent tornadoes before they go to bed. In cases when conditions look favorable for overnight tornado development, SPC will issue a public severe weather outlook, available on their website at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov>.

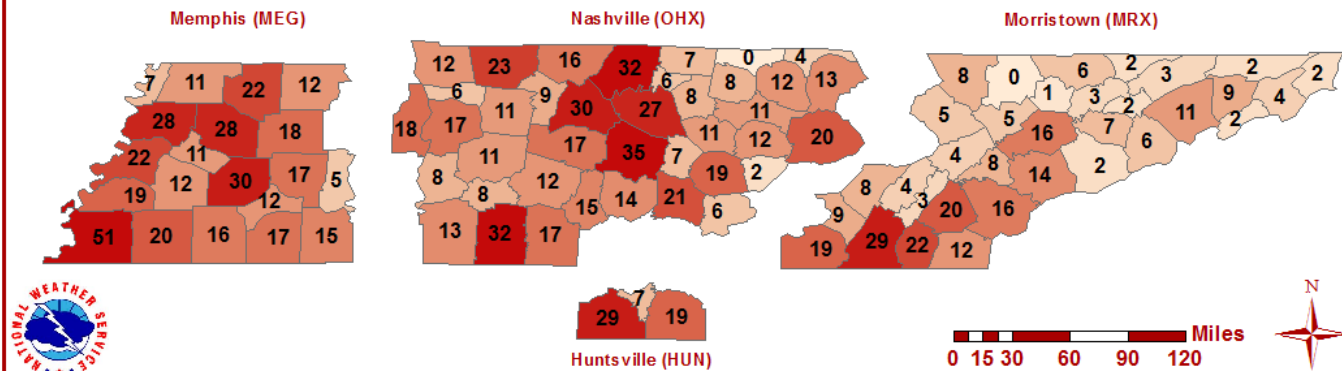


Large tornado backlit by lightning.
Photograph by Roger Edwards /Rich Thompson

Enhanced Fujita Scale (EF Scale)

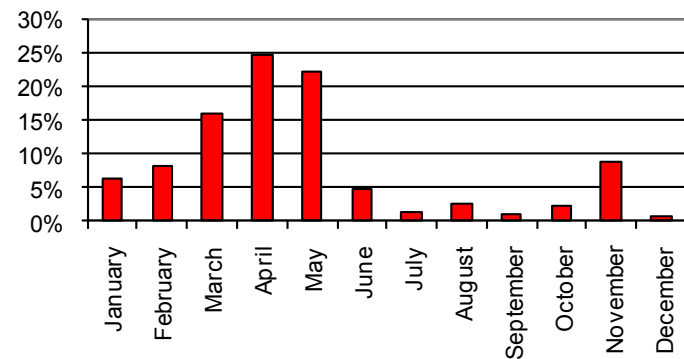
EF Rating	Wind Speeds	Potential Damage Threats
EF 0 (weak)	65-85 mph	Light damage, shallow rooted trees pushed over, some damage to gutters or siding.
EF 1 (weak)	86-110 mph	Moderate damage, mobile homes overturned, roof surfaces peeled off.
EF 2 (strong)	111-135 mph	Considerable damage, large trees uprooted or snapped, mobile homes destroyed.
EF 3 (strong)	136-165 mph	Severe damage, trains overturned, well built homes lose roofs and walls.
EF 4 (violent)	166-200 mph	Devastating damage, well built homes leveled, cars thrown.
EF 5 (extreme)	Over 200 mph	Incredible damage, well built homes disintegrated, automobile-sized objects thrown >300ft.

Tennessee Tornadoes By County 1950 - 2012

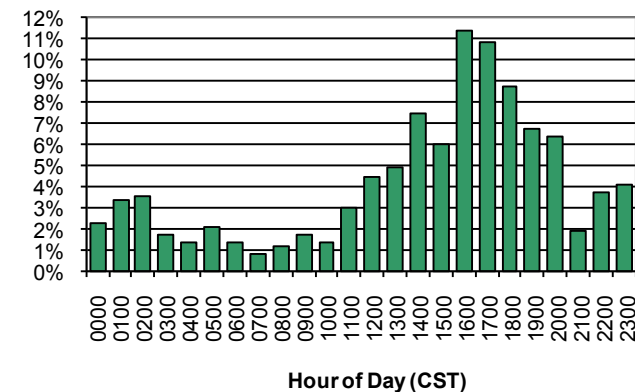


In '12, 28 TN counties were affected by tornadoes. There were 3 fatalities statewide and 85 injuries. Tornado damage estimates for the year were around \$50 million.

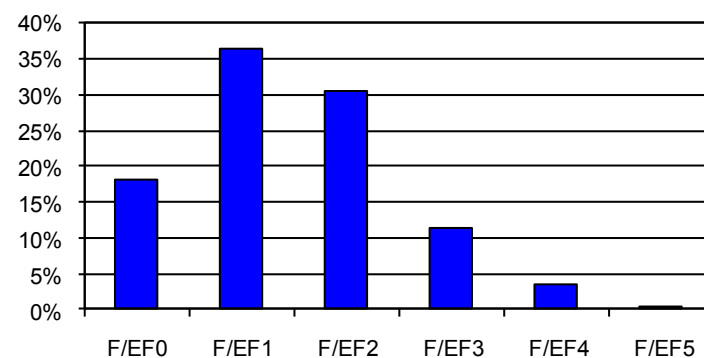
Tornado Occurrences by Month



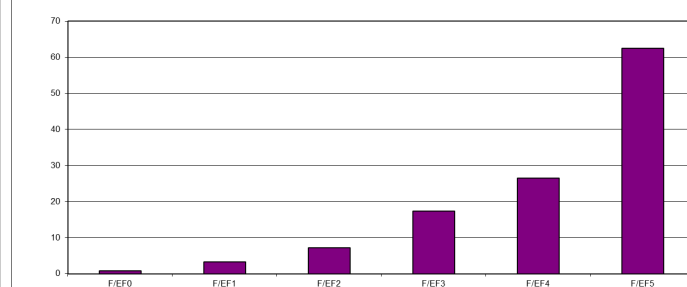
Tornado Occurrences by Hour of Day



Tornado Occurrences by F/EF-Scale



Average Tornado Path Length (miles)



DRILL DAY

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
Around 9:30 Local Time

A **TORNADO DRILL** will be conducted Wednesday morning, February 20, 2013, around 9:30 AM **Local Time**, weather permitting, as part of SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK in Tennessee. *If Wednesday's weather is Inclement, the test will be Thursday, February 21, 2013 (around the same time).*

Sometime around 930 AM, each National Weather Service office in the state will issue a test tornado drill message. The message will be sent under the Weekly Test Product (RWT) disseminated by NOAA Weather Radio and the EAS alert system.

The **Weekly Test Product**, with the tornado drill message, will be broadcast on all NOAA Weather Radio Transmitters across Tennessee and those transmitters in North Mississippi that cover Tennessee counties.

A **Drill** such as this gives schools, churches, business offices and plant safety managers across the state a chance to check the readiness of their Severe Weather Safety plans. If your office has a plan already in place, test it to make sure your employees know how to respond properly. If your employees know how the safety procedures work, they can carry them out effectively when the time comes.

IF YOUR WORK PLACE, SCHOOL OR CHURCH DOES NOT HAVE A SAFETY PLAN, NOW IS THE TIME TO START ONE!! Developing a safety plan is not difficult. If a plan is easy to operate, it is more likely to be successful when needed. Countless lives are saved each year by planning, preparedness and proper education. The U.S. population has grown in recent years, yet the number of tornado deaths has diminished. This is due to agencies and individuals developing Weather Safety Plans and to people reacting in a prudent manner when severe weather threatens their areas.

YOUR SAFETY AND THAT OF YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS DEPENDS ON YOU!!

Grant Opportunities for Emergency Managers

State Farm Insurance has a grant program entitled "Good Neighbors Citizenship Grant" which can be used to purchase disaster preparedness materials like Turn Around, Don't Drown (TADD) signs. Information about this grant can be found at www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/cogrants.asp. To request a grant application, contact the State Farm Murfreesboro Operations Center at 615-692-6000.

The Walmart Corporation also has a grant program for each Walmart and Sams's Club store. To learn more about the program applicants are urged to view the company's Giving Program Guidelines at www.walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/8916.aspx or contact the Facility Manager or Community Involvement Coordinator at the nearest